



Release Highlights: May 6, 2005

MONTANA

Mining, 2002 Economic Census, Geographic Area Series <http://ceic.mt.gov/EconCen.htm>

Mining establishments increased their capital expenditures by nearly 16% from 1997 to 2002 even though the value of mining shipments decreased 6%. Payroll rose by 5% but total employment declined 13%. However, the number of production, development and exploration workers rose 4%. Mine workers earned an average of \$49,224 in 2002 compared to \$40,588 in 1997.

Of the three Mining subsectors, 47% of the total establishments provide support activities, 68% of the employees work for non Oil and Gas extraction companies while Oil and Gas operations added \$88 million in value to their products. Traditional Montana mine operations, such as gold, silver and copper, spurred by price increases, increased total employment by 14%, the only mining subsector that experienced growth in total employment in the 1997-2002 time period.

Montana's mining has undergone structural changes in the above 5-year span. Not only are there fewer mining establishments, small establishments, with 1 to 19 employees, comprise 88% of the total while larger establishments, with 100 or more employees, has shrunk. See the table below.

Establishments	1997	% of Total	2002	% of Total
Total	294		266	
0 - 19	252	86%	235	88%
20-99	29	10%	25	9%
100+	13	4%	6	2%

The Mining sector (sector 21) comprises establishments that extract naturally occurring mineral solids, such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum; and gases, such as natural gas. The term mining is used in the broad sense to include quarrying, well operations, beneficiating (e.g., crushing, screening, washing and flotation), and other preparations customarily performed at the mine site, or as a part of mining activity.

For firms with payroll, the Geographic Area Series (GAS) reports provide general statistics on number of establishments, receipts, expenses of tax-exempt establishments, payroll, and employment by kind of business for the state, metropolitan, and micropolitan statistical areas, counties and places with 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Additional information is tabulated in the Mining GAS report. Supplementary statistics include value added by mining, cost of supplies, value of shipments and receipts for services, and capital expenditures. Detailed statistics for the state such as the number of the mining establishments by employment size, costs of electricity, fuels and communications services, and beginning and ending inventories of products and supplies are provided.

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